

# Creosote Bush

## *Larrea tridentata*

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau

### Shape/Size

Shrub 4 to 10 feet tall and as wide when mature.

### Leaves

Tiny dark green leaves with two lobes attached at the base like a pair of wings. 3/8 inch long with resinous surface.

### Flower/Fruit

Yellow flower blooms in spring, fruit is a capsule covered with whitish hairs.

### Range

The most common desert shrub in California. Almost pure stands occur in many parts of the desert. Prevalent on mesas and plains below 5,000 feet.

**Flammability** – Low to moderate, depending on available fuel moisture.

### Maintenance

Beneficial native for re-vegetation and restoration work in erosion control. Responds well to pruning for branch enhancement. Desirable plant to remain on site. Recommend dead wood removal and lifting the canopy off the ground. Should be removed 0 to 50 feet from structure.



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes



# Deerweed

## *Lotus scoparius*

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes

### **Shape/Size**

Low bushy shrub 1½ to 4 feet tall.

### **Leaves**

Long slender green branches becoming brown with age. Leaves grow in groups of three, ¼ to ¾ inch long.

### **Flower/Fruit**

Flowers in yellow clusters from 1 to 5, becoming orange-red with age ¼ to ¾ inch long. Blooms in spring and summer.

### **Range**

Common on dry slopes below 5,000 feet in coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities. Commonly found in areas recently burned or disturbed by grading.

**Flammability** – Moderate.

### **Maintenance**

Tends to growth in thick mats, recommend thinning into smaller individual plants or complete removal. Beneficial to wildlife as a food source and for soil composition because of its nitrogen fixing ability.



# Desert, Gregg, or Cupleaf Ceanothus

## *Ceanothus greggii*

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau

### Shape/Size

Up to 7 feet tall, rigid and erect. Branchlets are green, becoming gray at maturity.

### Leaves

Distinctly cupped, leathery and opposite of each other. Yellow-green above. Underside is hairy. Leaf edges turn upward and can be toothed or smooth up to 5/8 inch long.

### Flower/Fruit

Creamy white clusters bloom between March and June. Fruit is a three lobed capsule with small inconspicuous horns.

### Range

Grows on north facing slopes 3,000 to 7,500 feet in sagebrush scrub, pinion-juniper, chaparral, yellow pine and joshua tree woodland plant communities.

**Flammability** – Low to moderate depending on available fuel moisture.

### Maintenance

Has significant wildlife value. Recommend keeping plants in all but dense stands as a native ornamental for wildlife and erosion control. Remove dead material, lift off the ground, and light pruning to enhance open structure.



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes



# Desert Encelia (Brittlebush)

*Encelia farinosa*

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes

## **Shape/Size**

Shrub 1 to 4 feet tall and wide.

## **Leaves**

Leaves are a whitish-gray contrasting well with the flowers.

## **Flower/Fruit**

Flowers are showy yellow sunflower type heads rising several inches above the leaves. Fruit is a small achene.

## **Range**

Common in deserts and arid parts of inland valleys below 4,000 feet. Commonly used in seed mixes in new developments.

## **Flammability – Low.**

## **Maintenance**

Recommend pruning to keep vigorous and to remove any dead material.



# Eastwood Manzanita

*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes

## Shape/Size

Evergreen spreading shrub with basal burl 4 to 8 feet tall. Branches are smooth red bark that readily peels off. Young twigs are coarsely hairy and green.

## Leaves

Dull green or yellow, stiff, leathery, flat, oblong leaves with a tip 1 to 2 inches long.

## Flower/Fruit

White urn shaped flowers bloom February to May. The fruit is a sticky reddish brown berry resembling a tiny apple, maturing in late spring to summer.

## Range

Common shrub between 1,000 and 6,000 feet. Found in chaparral and pine forest communities.

## Flammability – Low.

## Maintenance

Resprouts after fire from stump sprouts. Highly desirable species for cultural, ornamental, and wildlife value. Recommend doing little other than removal of dead wood and lifting canopy off the ground so that duff and vegetation can be removed beneath the shrub.



Photo by John Aimes



# Flannel Bush

## *Fremontodendron californicum*

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes

### Shape/Size

Loosely branched, spreading shrub 10 to 20 feet tall and as wide.

### Leaves

Evergreen leaves are shaped like a palm with 3 to 5 lobes. Leaves  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches long, green above with wooly pubescent yellow undersides. Branches are covered with dense hairs that are highly irritating to the skin.

### Flower/Fruit

Bright yellow showy flowers  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, blooming April and June. Fruit is a bristly capsule  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch long.

### Range

Granitic slopes 3,000 to 7,000 feet in chaparral, yellow pine and pinion-juniper woodland.

**Flammability** – Low to moderate depending on available fuel moisture.

### Maintenance

Stump sprouts following a fire. Provides food for wildlife, highly treasured as an ornamental. Recommend minor pruning of live foliage to enhance vigor, removal of dead material and maintain canopy off ground.



# Fourwing Saltbush

## *Atriplex canescens*

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau

### Shape/Size

A large shrub 4 to 8 feet tall and wide. Has a densely branched mounding habit.

### Leaves

Gray-green leaves narrowly oblong or linear and scaly, often crowded in bunches. Tend to fall off in drought stressed conditions.

### Flower/Fruit

Small creamy yellow flowers. Fruit is a butterfly like flattened disk with hard body and 4 wings yellow to golden brown at maturity.

### Range

Dry slopes primarily in the desert below 7,000 feet. Found within several western states and Mexico in creosote bush, sagebrush scrub, pinion-juniper, and desert grassland plant communities.

**Flammability** – Low, relatively fire tolerant.

### Maintenance

Useful for erosion control. Maintain open spacing between species and remove dead material.



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes

